

# EMBRC HQ Update - N.25

## 15 June – 15 September 2021

Prepared by: EMBRC HQ

*The present report covers the period from 15 June to 15 September 2021.*

*Purpose: to update the EMBRC General Assembly (GA) on progress on the main items of work activity at EMBRC-ERIC headquarters (HQ).*

### General activities

- Since 12 July, Alexandra VASIC, our Chief Financial & Administrative Officer, has taken on the role of Secretary General of Euromarine<sup>1</sup>.
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and metrics for tracking performance in EMBRC are now being testing within EMBRC nodes. A workshop for an *ad interim* review is foreseen for early October. During the review, Liaison Officers will evaluate the feasibility of the collection of different performance metrics.
- EMBRC started collaborating with OpenAIRE<sup>2</sup>, an online platform to track scientific outcomes. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between OpenAIRE and EMBRC to use the platform. EMBRC research outcomes, including publications, data, and tools, will be available online and presented in a dedicated space. OpenAIRE will automatically collect outcomes from EMBRC-related projects and, in the future, from digital collections linked to EMBRC.
- The 2020 annual report was published and a printed version will be sent to the members of the General Assembly, Committee of Nodes (CoN), and key collaborators.

### Communication

- EMBRC edited the 2020-23 Science Strategy and published it online on 3 September 2021<sup>3</sup>.
- EMBRC disseminated its [second newsletter](#), which was distributed via the EMBRC mailing list on 10 September 2021.
- EMBRC is preparing a video on the “ABC’s of using EMBRC”; the Communications Officer and Access Officer have collaborated closely on writing the script/storyboard. Pending validation by the Executive Director, the Communications Officer will identify a video production company (based on quote comparison), and coordinate the development, validation, and publication process.
- Social media/website campaigns:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.euromarinenetwork.eu/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.openaire.eu/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://embrc.eu/sites/default/files/publications/EMBRC%20SCIENCE%20STRATEGY%202020-23%20for%20web.pdf>



- Marine Scientist Monday<sup>4</sup>: Ibon CANCIO (EMBRC-ES) continued to create entertaining and informative texts on history's greatest marine scientists, which the Communications Officer continued to publish/promote online. We discussed the possibility of turning the campaign into a printed book, which would be distributed to "friends and family of EMBRC". As of now, it is anticipated that the campaign will run until end 2021.
- LinkedIn<sup>5</sup> articles and service highlights: End August, the Communications Officer sent out a proposed calendar to the CoN for the publication of two kinds of materials: LinkedIn articles on any "marine biology hot topic" with a link to EMBRC, and highlights of EMBRC services offered by various nodes. Sabrina GABER will follow up with countries on an individual basis to ensure timely delivery and understanding of the requested tasks.
- Social media survey: the Communications Officer created and distributed an internal survey (to the GA, CoN, Liaison Officers, Communications Working Group members, HQ staff); the deadline was 6 September 2021 (in all, 30 people responded). A summary report has been delivered to the Executive Director and once validated, the Communications Officer will distribute to internal stakeholders.
- Website: updates have been made on an ongoing basis, including the addition of the EuroMarine network to our Partners page<sup>6</sup>. The Communications Officer has also coordinated regularly with the EMO BON Science Officer for the purpose of communication. The search engine for the EMBRC service catalogue will be enhanced to enable users to more easily search for and identify relevant services.
- Communications Working Group: meeting held on 1 July 2021
  - Participants: in addition to the regular members, the Access Officer, Davide DI CIOCCIO, was invited to participate (and contribute to discussion related to services and their presentation on the website/social media)
  - Aim: To harmonise and optimise communications activities at HQ and node level, and brainstorm on future potential communications campaigns (and discuss distribution of roles/responsibilities between the nodes).

## Access

- A Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) template was developed by our intern, Sarah THOMAS, during her internship (supervised by Anne Emmanuelle KERVELLA). The MTA covers the transfer of samples between EMBRC and a sub-contractor in the framework of EMO BON.
- The Access Officer ran a series of tests on the access management system ARIA with a panel of end-users. The access portal will be soon publicly available through our website.
- ABS Working Group on 3 June:
  - Participants (HQ): Arnaud LAROQUETTE (and members of the ABS WG)
  - Aim: Review and validate a series of European Marine Biological Resource Centre Biobank (EBB) project webinars to train staff on issues related to access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilisation.
- EU ABS networking event on 14 June:

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.embrc.eu/campaigns>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.linkedin.com/company/embrc>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.embrc.eu/partners>



- Participants (HQ): Nicolas PADE, Arnaud LAROQUETTE
- Aim: "This networking event brings different actors together to reflect on the work done so far, to understand the needs of the user community, and to identify the way forward into the future" (Nicolas PADE).

## Governance meetings

- Committee of Nodes (CoN) 30 on 2 July:
  - Participants: Nicolas PADE, Sidonie GRAS, Gemma GIMENEZ, Wiebe KOOISTRA, Tatiana TSAGARAKI, Deborah POWER, Jan VANAVERBEKE, Georgios KOTOULAS, Jaap VAN RIJN
  - Aim: To discuss the technical and scientific description of the EMBRC strategy. Additional aims were to discuss the development of formal and informal learning, education, training, and use of knowledge and technologies.
- GA extraordinary meeting by video conference on 13 September to commence preparations for the next five-year budgetary cycle

## Projects

### RI-VIS<sup>7</sup>:

- Update of the planning of task 5.2 (the development of regional communications guidelines for Latin America and Africa)
  - Latin America:
    - The first Latin American Organising Committee meeting took place on 20 July 2021
    - A survey was sent to regional stakeholders in Latin America starting early August 2021. The Organising Committee is now assessing survey responses and will start drafting the guideline document. The purpose of the document is to provide information to European research infrastructures (RIs) on how to better engage with researchers in Latin America, and increase their visibility among potential users.
  - Africa :
    - The African Organising Committee was finalised the week of September 13 (following acceptance by the local regional stakeholder, who has been asked to review the survey and suggest respondents). It is anticipated that the survey will be sent to regional stakeholders starting mid October, and responses analysed starting late October to early November.
    - It is expected that the work task, ie the development of two sets of communication guidelines (one for Latin America, one for Africa), will be completed by project end (2021/12/31).
- Latin America-Europe Symposium on Research Infrastructures 15-17 June 2021<sup>8</sup>:

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<sup>7</sup> <https://ri-vis.eu/network/rivis/home>

<sup>8</sup> [https://whova.com/portal/webapp/rlas\\_202106/](https://whova.com/portal/webapp/rlas_202106/)



- Participants (HQ): Sidonie GRAS, Sabrina GABER, Nicolas PADE
- Aim: To bring together delegates from Latin American and European RIs, science policy organisations, and research institutions to discuss opportunities and challenges for RI collaboration between Latin America and Europe
- Forthcoming: the final international Symposium will take place from 5-7 October 2021; it is anticipated that HQ will attend select sessions, as relevant and feasible.

## EMO BON<sup>9</sup> :

- NEW official EMBRC service: European Marine Omics Biodiversity Observation Network (EMO BON) aims to enhance the European contribution to global genomic observation efforts:
  - Launch and production of 2 samplings:
    - EMBRC shipped the necessary consumables to the participating nodes so that they could conduct the sampling
    - 1<sup>st</sup> sampling on 21 June
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> sampling during August
- EMO BON Operational Committee (OpCo) 2nd meeting on 17 June:
  - Participants: Nicolas PADE, Ioulia SANTI, Kim PRAEBEL, Klaas DENEUDT, Michael CUNLIFFE, Bruno LOURO, Oihane DIAZ DE CERIO, Raffaella CASOTTI, Melanthia STAVROULAKI, Miquel FRADA, Ian DAVIES, Katrina EXTER, Arnaud LAROQUETTE, Fabrice NOT, Anne Emmanuelle KERVELLA
  - Aim: To take stock since the last OpCo, to study the evolution of the EMO BON project, to analyse and address protocol issues, to share information.
- Meeting between Autonomous Reef Monitoring Structures (ARMS) from Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON) and EMO BON on 12 July:
  - Participants (HQ): Nicolas PADE, Ioulia SANTI
  - Aim: To define the relationship between ARMS BON and EMO BON and explore collaboration with MBON
- e-Infrastructure Working Group Meeting on 2 September:
  - Participants: Nicolas PADE, Ioulia SANTI, Erwan CORRE, Mark HOEBEKE, Cymon, J. COX, Katrina EXTER, Christina PAVLOUDI, Sidonie GRAS.
  - Aim: To finalise the discussion on an “embargo period” for the EMO BON DMP, provide DMP updates, and schedule an e-Infrastructure Working Group meeting
- EMO BON OpCo 3rd meeting on 8 September:
  - Participants: Nicolas PADE, Ioulia SANTI, Kim Praebel PRAEBEL, Klaas Deneudt DENEUDT, Michael CUNLIFFE, Fabrice NOT, Raffaella CASOTTI, Katrina EXTER, Arnaud LAROQUETTE, Oihane DIAZ DE CERIO, Melanthia STAVROULAKI, Miquel Frada FRADA, Ian DAVIES
  - Aim: To take stock since the last OpCo meeting, study the evolution of the EMO BON project, analyse and address protocol issues, and share information

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.embrc.eu/emo-bon>



## ASSEMBLE PLUS<sup>10</sup>:

- ASSEMBLE Plus meeting on 29 June:
  - Participant (HQ): Davide DI CIOCCIO
  - Aim: To clarify the current amendment process for the grant agreement

## DOORS<sup>11</sup>:

- NEW official project: DOORS ("Developing Optimal and Open Research Support") project kicks off to tackle pollution in the Black Sea. Led by GeoEcoMar from Romania, DOORS will bring together expertise and technology from 37 institutions from the Black Sea region (including EMBRC) and other European countries to address the human and climate change impacts on damaged ecosystems.
- DOORS kick-off from 29-30 June:
  - Participants (HQ): Nicolas PADE, Sidonie GRAS
  - Scope: Executive Director Nicolas PADE presented EMBRC's involvement in the DOORS project. During the kick-off, participants discussed the harmonisation of methodologies for sampling, measurement, analysis and modelling, taking into account best practices but also supporting the sustainable development of businesses underpinning Black Sea Blue Growth (BG) as well as developing formal and informal learning, education, training and use of knowledge and technologies.

## Other recent events

- European Commission Ocean Observation Event<sup>12</sup>, 18 June:
  - Participant (HQ): Nicolas PADE,
  - Aim: To identify how to accelerate the deployment of more efficient and effective ocean observation technology and gaps in ocean observation
- 3rd EMSO<sup>13</sup> Advisory Committee meeting on 18 June:
  - Participant (HQ): Nicolas PADE,
  - Aim: To provide advice on the functioning and operation of EMSO
- EU Innovation Days<sup>14</sup>, Research Infrastructures – hubs of excellence, knowledge creation and innovation, on 24 June:
  - Participant (HQ): Nicolas PADE
  - Scope: Nicolas PADE was invited to present EMBRC as one of the featured infrastructures in the RI session, focusing in particular on RI impact on society and science

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.assembleplus.eu/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.embrc.eu/newsroom/news/doors-project-kicks-tackle-pollution-black-sea>

<sup>12</sup> <https://envri.eu/ec-ocean-observation-event-18-june-2021/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://emso.eu/organization/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/research-and-innovation/en/events/upcoming-events/research-innovation-days>



- JPI Oceans<sup>15</sup> - Knowledge Hub webinar on integrated assessment of chemical contaminants on 25 June:
  - Participant (HQ): Sidonie GRAS
  - Aim: To present its recommendations on how to improve the methodological basis for marine chemical status assessment
- CERIC-EMBRC meeting on 7 July:
  - Participant (HQ): Nicolas PADE
  - Aim: To discuss ways to measure the impact of RIs
- Blue Bio Value<sup>16</sup> meeting on 9 July:
  - Participant (HQ): Nicolas PADE
  - Aim: To discuss possible collaboration on their SMS coaching courses and new ideas incubator
- TREC Sampling Planning Coordination Kick-off Meeting by European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL<sup>17</sup>) on 22 July:
  - Participant (HQ): Nicolas PADE
  - Scope: As part of the collaboration agreement between EMBL and EMBRC, a sampling expedition will be carried out across Europe together with TARA Ocean, with many EMBRC sites being visited. The meeting was a first discussion on the coordination of such an expedition.
- MarinePortal.eu<sup>18</sup> portal meeting on 26 August:
  - Participant (HQ): Davide DI CIOCCIO
  - Aim: To align training data with EMBRC KPIs
- IMBRSea<sup>19</sup> Board Meeting on 3 September:
  - Participant (HQ): Nicolas PADE
  - Aim: To discuss issues related to teaching within IMBRSea, monitoring of the master programme, the need for teachers, students, etc.
- “How to prepare an accurate financial statement of Horizon2020 and Horizonte Europe on time”, a webinar by EMDESK<sup>20</sup>, on 9 September:
  - Participant (HQ): Davide DI CIOCCIO
  - Aim: To provide a quick overview of how to prepare an accurate financial statement on-time.
- Core Technologies for Life Sciences (CTLS)<sup>21</sup> event on 10 September:
  - Participant (HQ): Nicolas PADE

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.jpi-oceans.eu/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.bluebiovalue.com/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.embl.org/>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.marineportal.eu/>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.imbrsea.eu/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.emdesk.com/academy/horizon-europe-webinar-prepare-accurate-financial-statement>

<sup>21</sup> [CTLS – Core Technologies for Life Science \(ctls-org.eu\)](https://www.ctls-ctls.org.eu)



- Aim/scope: Nicolas PADE presented the ERIC legal framework, including pros and cons of the structure and its suitability to CTLS members
- “New ethical appraisal process for Horizon Europe. Key changes and expectations”, a webinar by BBMRI-ERIC<sup>22</sup>, on 13 September:
  - Participants (HQ): Davide DI CIOCCIO, Guillaume DUSPARA
  - Aim: To provide an overview of the ethics appraisal process for Horizon Europe, the ethics issues that are evaluated during this procedure, and general guidance on how to prepare the ethics self-assessment that has to be included in each application for funding.
- “Café Relais” 1, a webinar by PCN Research Infrastructures and Legal and Financial on 14 September:
  - Participant (HQ): Guillaume DUSPARA
    - Aim: To present transnational access in projects like INFRASERV, to present the project launch, and discuss management of access costs
- EOOS<sup>23</sup> Operations Committee meeting #3 on 15 September:
  - Participant (HQ): Nicolas PADE
  - Aim: To coordinate marine RIs, and discuss Europe’s ocean observing capacity

## Upcoming events

- The 5th Community Workshop of the IOC-UNESCO Ocean Best Practices System<sup>24</sup> from 20-24 September:
  - Aim: The EMO BON team hopes to hear from different representatives of the ocean community, to evaluate the next steps that need to be taken to add value to the currently used practices, and to work together with the Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS) community to support best practices across and within RIs.
- Australia - Europe Symposium on Research Infrastructures<sup>25</sup> from 5-7 October 2021:
  - Aim: To enhance international cooperation in science and technology between Europe and Australia
- ENVRI Week<sup>26</sup> from 31 January - 4 February 2022:
  - Scope: ENVRI week is an annual event dedicated to environmental RIs, including EMBRC (which is also considered a “Life Science RI”)

## Links :

- EuroMarine: <https://www.euromarinenetwork.eu/>

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<sup>22</sup> [Home - BBMRI-ERIC: Making New Treatments Possible](#)

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.eoos-ocean.eu/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://workshop5.oceanbestpractices.org/>

<sup>25</sup> [Australia - Europe Symposium on Research Infrastructures | EMBRC](#)

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.embrc.eu/newsroom/events/envri-week>



- OpenAIRE: <https://www.openaire.eu/>
- EMBRC publications: <https://embrc.eu/sites/default/files/publications/EMBRC%20SCIENCE%20STRATEGY%202020-23%20for%20web.pdf>
- EMBRC campaigns: <https://www.embrc.eu/campaigns>
- EMBRC LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/embrc>
- EMBRC partners: <https://www.embrc.eu/partners>
- RI-VIS: <https://ri-vis.eu/network/rivis/home>
- Latin America-Europe Symposium on Research Infrastructures: [https://whova.com/portal/webapp/rlas\\_202106/](https://whova.com/portal/webapp/rlas_202106/)
- EMO BON: <https://www.embrc.eu/emo-bon>
- Assemble plus: <https://www.assembleplus.eu/>
- DOORS: <https://www.embrc.eu/newsroom/news/doors-project-kicks-tackle-pollution-black-sea>
- EC Ocean Observation Event: <https://envri.eu/ec-ocean-observation-event-18-june-2021/>
- EU Innovation Days: <https://ec.europa.eu/research-and-innovation/en/events/upcoming-events/research-innovation-days>
- JPI Oceans: <https://www.jpi-oceans.eu/>
- Blue Bio Value: <https://www.bluebiovalue.com/>
- Marine Portal: <http://www.marineportal.eu/>
- IMBRsea: <http://www.imbrsea.eu/>
- EMDESK: <https://www.emdesk.com/academy/horizon-europe-webinar-prepare-accurate-financial-statement>
- CTLS: <https://ctls-org.eu>
- BBMRI: <https://www.bbmri-eric.eu>
- EOOS: <https://www.eoos-ocean.eu/>
- Oceanbestpractices: <https://workshop5.oceanbestpractices.org/>
- Australia - Europe Symposium on Research Infrastructures: <https://www.embrc.eu/newsroom/events/australia-europe-symposium-research-infrastructures>
- EMVRI week: <https://www.embrc.eu/newsroom/events/envri-week>

**Thank you to all our collaborators and supporters of EMBRC projects.**

The next HQ Update will be available by Friday 17 December 2021.